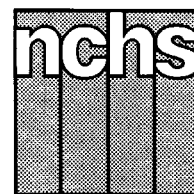


Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Final Data From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION/National Center for Health Statistics

Advance Report of Final Marriage Statistics, 1989 and 1990

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Highlights

A total of 2,443,489 couples married in the United States in 1990, a 2-percent increase over the number for 1989 (2,403,268) and the highest number since

1984. The rate of marriage in 1990 (9.8 per 1,000 population) was also slightly higher than in 1989 (9.7). However, provisional data indicate that the increase in the number and rate of marriages was temporary and declined each year from 1991 to 1993.

First marriage rates were highest for men and women in their mid- and late-20's. Single (never married) women ages 25–29 were more than 5 times as likely to marry in 1990 as single women 40–44 years of age and 14 times as likely to marry as single women ages 50–54. The drop by age was not as steep for men as for women. Single men ages 25–29 were approximately four times as likely to marry as single men 40–44 years of age and eight times as likely to marry as single men ages 50–54. Marriage rates were very low for single men and women in age groups over 55 years. About a quarter of divorced men and women 20–24 years of age remarried in 1990.

The marriage rates for previously divorced men and women consistently declined with additional age.

The age distribution of brides and grooms shifted to older ages during the 1970's and 1980's. In 1990 proportionately fewer brides and grooms were under 25 years of age when they first married and more brides and grooms were between 25 and 39 years of age than in 1970.

The median age of previously single brides was 24.0 years, about 10 years younger than the median age for previously divorced brides and 30 years younger than the median age for previously widowed brides. Previously single grooms were 10.5 years younger than previously divorced grooms and about 37 years younger than previously widowed grooms. Since 1970 the median age for previously single and widowed brides has increased by about 3 years, while the median age for previously divorced

Acknowledgments

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brides has increased by about 4 years. Previously single and divorced grooms were about 3 years older in 1990 than in 1970, while previously widowed grooms were about 4 years older.

The majority of marriages in 1990 were between spouses entering first marriages (54 percent). The next most frequent combination was that both spouses were previously divorced (20 percent). Relatively few were both widowed (1 percent). The remaining quarter of marriages were between partners with differing marital histories.

White brides and grooms were younger than black brides and grooms at first marriage and were also younger at remarriage after divorce. The rate of marriage in 1990 was 76 percent higher for white women than black women and 55 percent higher for white men than black men. Except for first marriages to men and women 40 years of age and over, the rate of first marriage and remarriage in all age categories was higher for white men and women than for their black counterparts.

The data in tables 1–3 are derived from total counts of marriages that are available for all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The data in tables 4–11 contain detailed demographic information about brides and grooms. This information is drawn from a sample of certificates of marriages performed in the marriage-registration area (MRA), which is composed of 42 States and the District of Columbia. Marriages in the MRA sample in 1990 were representative of 77 percent of all U.S. marriages. See Technical notes for further information on the data in this report.

Number and rates

There were 2,443,489 marriages performed in the United States in 1990, a 2-percent increase over the number for 1989 and the highest number since 1984 (table 1). Provisional data indicate that the increase in marriages from 1988 to 1990 is followed by consecutive declines—from 2,371,000 in 1991 to 2,362,000 in 1992 to 2,334,000 in 1993. Over the last 50 years, the number of marriages has varied between a low of 1,451,000 in 1958 and a high of around 2,477,000 in 1984. There was an increase

in marriages at the beginning of World War II, an abrupt drop in 1943 and 1944 when millions of young men were overseas in the Armed Forces, and a postwar surge to 2.3 million in 1946, a figure that was not exceeded until 1979. The postwar surge receded quickly during the late 1940's and the annual total fluctuated around 1.5 or 1.6 million in the 1950's. During the 14-year period from 1959 to 1973 the annual total of marriages increased every year, reaching 2.3 million again in 1973. During the mid-1970's marriages dipped for 2 years before resuming their upward trend. The annual marriage total fluctuated again in the 1980's, reached an all-time high in 1984 and then declined every year from 1984 through 1988. The number increased in 1989 and again in 1990 followed by consecutive declines in 1991–93.

The rate of marriage increased slightly between 1989 (9.7 per 1,000 total population) and 1990 (9.8), returning to the level of 1988. The increase in the marriage rate appears to be a minor aberration in a trend of declining rates. According to provisional data, the marriage rate declined in 1991 (9.4) and fell sharply to 9.0 by 1993. Unlike the trend in the number of marriages that was generally upward during the 1940–90 period, the marriage rate has cycled up and down several times in response to wars, economic cycles, variations in the

number of young adults reaching marriageable ages, and changes in marital patterns (figure 1). The rate per 1,000 total population reached a historic high of 16.4 in 1946 in the wake of demobilization, and a low of 8.4 in 1958 when an economic recession combined with small numbers of young adults reaching marriageable ages. The rate rose again, crested at 10.9 in 1972 (less than the record high) and fell to 9.9 in 1976–77 before another, weaker recovery to 10.6 in 1980–82. After 1982 the marriage rate declined to 9.7 per 1,000 population in 1989, increased slightly in 1990 and then declined to 9.0 by 1993.

One of the underlying factors that accounts for cycles in the marriage rate is the variation in the number of unmarried young adults who reach marriageable age. A rate that takes into account these fluctuations is the marriage rate per 1,000 unmarried women 15–44 years of age. The marriage rate reached a record high of 199.0 per 1,000 unmarried women 15–44 years of age in 1946. Then the rate drifted generally downward, dropping below 100 in 1983 and continuing downward to an all-time low of 91.0 in 1988. The rate increased slightly in 1989 and again in 1990, to 91.3. Even though there are variations in the size of the marriageable population, the general decline in this rate indicates that fewer eligible women are marrying than did so in the past.

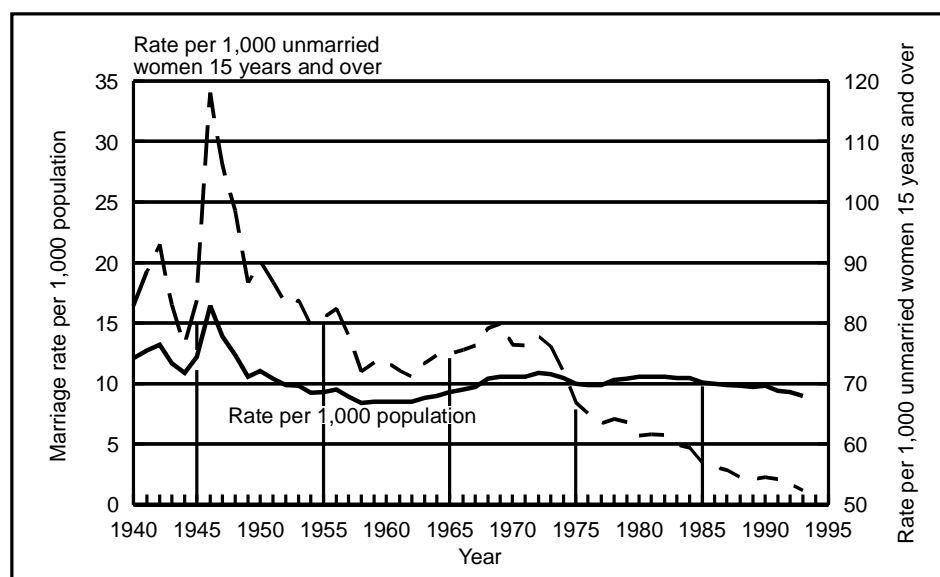


Figure 1. Marriage rates: United States, 1940–93

Geographic variation

The data in table 2 show that compared with 1989, the number of marriages for 1990 was higher in 27 States and the District of Columbia and lower in 23 States. The number of marriages in 1990 was lower than in 1989 for all States in the Northeast, although the declines were small (less than 6 percent). In contrast, the number of marriages was higher in 1990 than in 1989 for every State in the West except Alaska, where the number was virtually unchanged. The only State with a striking difference in the number of marriages between 1989 and 1990 was Illinois—a 17-percent increase. The increase in marriages in Illinois was associated with the discontinuation of a State law that required all applicants for marriage licenses to have blood tests for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection (1). The law went into effect in January 1988 and the number of marriages in Illinois was sharply lower for that year (78,302) than in 1987 (95,613). The number of Illinois residents that married in neighboring States increased substantially in 1988. Presumably many residents of Illinois chose to marry in other States due to the mandatory HIV test. The law requiring the HIV test was repealed in June 1989 and the number of marriages in Illinois partially rebounded, to 85,720 in 1989. The sharp increase in the number of marriages in 1990 probably reflects the fact that this was the first full year since 1987 in which the HIV test was not required. This experience in Illinois is an example of how State laws can play a part in decisions of where to marry. Neither the bride nor groom are required to be a resident of the State in which they marry, so couples may easily choose to marry out of their resident State.

Marriage rates based on the place where the couple married differed by region of the country and by State (table 2). In 1990, as in previous years, rates for the Northeast and Midwest (8.0 and 8.7 per 1,000 population) were substantially lower than rates for the South (10.9) and West (11.0). These differences were even more pronounced in 1980. Compared with 1989, the marriage rate in 1990 declined 2 percent in the Northeast, rose 1 percent in the Midwest and West and rose 2 percent in the South.

Rates of marriage varied considerably among States, from 7.1 in Pennsylvania to 16.4 in Hawaii and 99.0 in Nevada. Most States had marriage rates in 1990 that differed by less than 6 percent from the marriage rate in 1989. However, Illinois and South Dakota had substantial increases in their marriage rates, 17 and 9 percent, while the rate for Delaware declined by 7 percent.

Monthly and daily variation

In 1990 marriages continued to follow the typical seasonal swings from low in the winter to high in the summer months (table 3). June was the month in which the greatest number of couples married (280,218) and January had the fewest (117,310). Compared with 1989, April, July, and December had fewer marriages while the remaining months had more. Some of the annual variations in monthly totals correspond to the number of Saturdays a month contains in a particular year. More than half of U.S. marriages were performed on Saturdays, therefore, having a fifth Saturday among the 30 or 31 days in a month causes a substantial increase in the monthly marriage total.

Total marriage rate

The total marriage rate combines a set of annual age-specific rates to show the total number of marriages that 1,000 men and 1,000 women would be expected to have during their lifetimes. In 1990 the total marriage rate per thousand was 1,130.0 for women and 1,143.8 for men (table 4). This means that if current age-specific rates were to continue, there would be 1,130.0 marriages per 1,000 women and 1,148.8 marriages per 1,000 men during their lifetimes. The rate may be separated into a first marriage rate and a remarriage rate. In 1990 the total first marriage rate was 714.6 for women and 695.5 for men. Thus, 71 percent of women and 70 percent of men would be expected to marry at least once. Total first marriage rates for women and men were lower in 1990 than in 1989. In contrast, the total remarriage rates increased from 1989 to 1990. The total remarriage rate for 1990 was 415.4 per 1,000 for women and 448.3 per 1,000 for men. Some of

these remarriages would be third- or higher order marriages.

Rates by marital status and age

The marriage rates for unmarried women aged 15–44 and 15 years of age and over in table 1 show the trend in marriage for all unmarried women without regard to whether they were single or had been divorced or widowed. Information about the previous marital status of bride and groom is available from 38 States and the District of Columbia in the MRA. There is much variation in marriage rates by previous marital status and the trends in these rates are important for understanding the changes in the more general marriage rates.

It is clear from the data in table 5 that marriage rates for both sexes and for each previous marital status have dropped substantially since 1970. The marriage rate for single and divorced women dropped 38 percent; and for widowed women, 49 percent. The marriage rate for single and widowed men dropped 42 and 41 percent; and for divorced men, 48 percent. Table 5 also shows that the likelihood of marriage varies enormously according to previous marital status. In 1990 the marriage rate for single women was 57.7 per 1,000, 24 percent below the marriage rate for divorced women (76.2) but more than 10 times the rate for widows (5.2). The 1990 marriage rate for single men (47.0 per 1,000) was less than half the rate for divorced men (105.9), but almost twice the rate for widowed men (23.8). The marriage rates were higher for divorced than for single persons and rates were much higher for single and divorced than for widowed persons.

Throughout the 1970–90 period, marriage rates for single women were consistently higher than marriage rates for single men. In contrast, marriage rates for divorced women were consistently lower than marriage rates for divorced men, and marriage rates for widowed women were about one-fourth of the rates for widowed men.

Table 6 shows marriage rates specific for age as well as previous marital status of brides and grooms. First marriage rates

reached a peak for men and women in their mid- and late-20's. For example, in 1990 the marriage rate for single women was 28.2 per 1,000 for those 15–19 years of age, rose to 109.4 for those 25–29, and dropped substantially with each additional 5 years of age. Single women ages 25–29 were more than 5 times as likely to marry as single women 40–44 and 14 times as likely to marry as single women 50–54. The marriage rate for single men 15–19 years of age was 10.3 per 1,000, climbed to 95.7 at 25–29 years of age and then also dropped with each additional 5 years of age. The decline, however, was not as steep as that for women. Single men aged 25–29 years were approximately four times as likely to marry as single men 40–44 and eight times as likely to marry as single men aged 50–54 years. Marriage rates were very low for single men and women in age groups over 55 years.

At younger ages, marriage rates for single and divorced women were higher than rates for men. There is a crossover point at which marriage rates for men exceed the rates for women. For example, single women who were in age groups between 15–34 years had higher rates than their male counterparts but the reverse was true for age groups over 35 years. Divorced women 20–24 years of age had higher marriage rates than divorced men in the same age category, but lower marriage rates for every age group over 25 years.

Previous marital status

The majority of marriages united brides and grooms that were both single (54 percent) (table 7). The next most frequent combination was that both spouses were divorced (20 percent). Relatively few marriages united partners who were both widowed (1 percent). The remaining quarter of marriages were between partners with differing marital histories. In 1990 the proportion of single brides that married previously divorced grooms was the same as the proportion of divorced brides that married single grooms (11 percent each). Widowed men married divorced and widowed women also in equal proportions (1 percent each). During the 1970's when the number of divorces was climbing

steadily, the proportion of brides and grooms that had been divorced also increased and the proportion of first marriages for brides and grooms declined. For example, from 1970 to 1990 the percent of marriages where both spouses were previously divorced increased from 11 to 20 percent. During the same time period, marriages between two previously single spouses declined from 69 to 54 percent.

Age at marriage

There was a shift in the age distribution of marriages to older ages during the 1970's and 1980's (table 8). In 1990, 17 percent of the previously single brides were teenagers, down from 30 percent in 1980 and 42 percent in 1970. In 1990, 41 percent of the previously single brides were 20–24, down from 46 percent in 1970. The biggest change in the age distribution was the increase in the proportion of previously single brides who were between 25 and 39 years of age—from 11 percent in 1970 to 41 percent in 1990. The proportion of brides that were 25–29 when they married for the first time doubled from 1970 (8 percent) to 1980 (16 percent) and more than tripled from 1970 to 1990 (27 percent). The ages of previously single grooms showed the same shift after 1970 with a decrease in the proportion of single grooms under 25 years of age and a corresponding increase in the proportion between 25 and 39 years of age. There was less change between 1970 and 1990 in the distribution of marriages by age of divorced than of single brides. The percent of previously divorced brides that were 25–39 years of age increased from 50 percent in 1970 to 63 percent in 1990.

Table 9 shows the median and mean ages at marriages by previous marital status of the bride and groom. The mean age of previously single brides was 25.0 years, about 10.5 years younger than the mean age for previously divorced brides (35.6 years) and about 28 years younger than for previously widowed brides (53.4). Previously single grooms were about 12 years younger than previously divorced grooms, 26.9 and 39.0 years, and about 34 years younger than previously widowed grooms (61.1 years). Since 1970 the mean age for previously

single, divorced, and widowed brides has increased by about 3 years. Previously single and widowed grooms were also about 3 years older in 1990 than in 1970 while previously divorced grooms were slightly more than 2 years older.

Race

In 1989 and 1990, 34 States reported the race of bride and groom on marriage records. In 1990 among brides for whom race was stated, 87 percent were white brides, 11 percent were black brides, and 2 percent were brides of other races. The proportions were similar for grooms (table 10). Of the marriages where race was reported for bride and groom, 85 percent were both white, 11 percent were both black, and 1 percent were both of other races (data not shown). Only 3 percent of couples in the 34-State area married interracially.

The marriage patterns by previous marital status and age differ by race. In 1990 about one-third of the white brides and grooms had been divorced compared with only a quarter of the black brides and grooms. The mean ages at marriage show that white brides and grooms are younger than black brides and grooms at first marriage and at remarriage after divorce (table 10).

Marriage rates for 1990 by race, previous marital status, and age are shown in table 11. The overall marriage rate for white women (58.8 per 1,000) was 76 percent higher than the rate for black women (33.5). The difference between races in marriage rates was narrower for men; the rate for white men (71.2) was 55 percent higher than the rate for black men (45.9). For all age groups under 55 years, marriage rates for white women were more than twice those of black women with the largest difference between races in the 15–19 age group—41.2 compared with 14.8. The difference in the age-specific rates between white and black men were generally not as pronounced as for women. Similar to the findings for women, the age group at which the disparity was greatest was 15–19 years—15.2 for white men compared with 5.0 for black men. Other studies have also found much higher rates of marriage for white than black men and women (2,3). In

particular, it has been noted that marriages among black teenagers have become extremely rare (4).

Except for first marriages at ages 40 years and over, marriage rates were higher for white women and men than black women and men for all previous marital status and age combinations. For first marriages, the rate for white women (72.5) was 91 percent higher than the rate for black women (38.0). White men first married at rates 50 percent higher than black men—58.9 compared with 39.2. The pattern in first marriage rates by age was the same for both races, peaking at 25–29 years of age and decreasing steadily thereafter. For all age groups under 40 years, first marriage rates for white men and women were higher than for black men and women. However, for men and women first marrying at 40 years of age and over, the relationship reversed and the rates were higher for

black persons than for white persons. For remarriages following divorce and widowhood, the rates for white women and men were higher than for black women and men for every age category. The disparities were greatest at the younger age groups and the rates converged with additional age.

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Table 1. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, 1940–93

[Data refer only to events occurring within the United States. Alaska included beginning 1959 and Hawaii beginning 1960. Beginning with 1978, data include nonlicensed marriages registered in California; see Technical notes. Rates per 1,000 population enumerated as of April 1 for 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

		Rate per 1,000 population—				
Year	Number	Total population	Men 15 years of age and over ¹	Women 15 years of age and over ¹	Unmarried women 15 years of age and over	Unmarried women 15–44 years of age
Provisional:						
1993	2,334,000	9.0	---	---	52.3	86.8
1992	2,362,000	9.3	---	---	53.3	88.2
1991	2,371,000	9.4	---	---	54.2	89.0
Final:						
1990	2,443,489	9.8	26.0	24.1	54.5	91.3
1989	2,403,268	9.7	25.8	23.9	54.2	91.2
1988	2,395,926	9.8	26.0	24.0	54.6	91.0
1987	2,403,378	9.9	26.3	24.3	55.7	92.4
1986	2,407,099	10.0	26.6	24.5	56.2	93.9
1985	2,412,625	10.1	27.0	24.9	57.0	94.9
1984	2,477,192	10.5	28.0	25.8	59.5	99.0
1983	2,445,604	10.5	28.0	25.7	59.9	99.3
1982	2,456,278	10.6	28.5	26.1	61.4	101.9
1981	2,422,145	10.6	28.4	26.1	61.7	103.1
1980	2,390,252	10.6	28.5	26.1	61.4	102.6
1979	2,331,337	10.4	28.1	25.8	63.6	107.9
1978	2,282,272	10.3	28.0	25.7	64.1	109.1
1977	2,178,367	9.9	27.2	25.0	63.6	109.8
1976	2,154,807	9.9	27.4	25.2	65.2	113.4
1975	2,152,662	10.0	27.9	25.6	66.9	118.5
1974	2,229,667	10.5	29.4	27.1	72.0	128.4
1973	2,284,108	10.8	30.7	28.2	76.0	137.3
1972	2,282,154	10.9	31.3	28.8	77.9	141.3
1971	2,190,481	10.6	30.7	28.2	76.2	138.9
1970	2,158,802	10.6	31.1	28.4	76.5	140.2
1969	2,145,000	10.6	31.4	28.9	80.0	149.1
1968	2,069,000	10.4	30.8	28.3	79.1	147.2
1967	1,927,000	9.7	29.1	26.9	76.4	145.2
1966	1,857,000	9.5	28.4	26.4	75.6	145.1
1965	1,800,000	9.3	27.9	26.0	75.0	144.3
1964	1,725,000	9.0	27.1	25.3	74.6	146.2
1963	1,654,000	8.8	26.4	24.7	73.4	143.3
1962	1,577,000	8.5	25.5	23.9	71.2	138.4
1961	1,548,000	8.5	25.5	24.0	72.2	145.4
1960	1,523,000	8.5	25.4	24.0	73.5	148.0
1959	1,494,000	8.5	25.2	23.8	73.6	149.8
1958	1,451,000	8.4	24.8	23.5	72.0	146.3
1957	1,518,000	8.9	26.4	24.9	78.0	157.4
1956	1,585,000	9.5	27.8	26.4	82.4	165.6
1955	1,531,000	9.3	27.2	25.8	80.9	161.1
1954	1,490,000	9.2	26.9	25.4	79.8	154.3
1953	1,546,000	9.8	28.2	26.7	83.7	163.3
1952	1,539,318	9.9	28.3	26.8	83.2	159.9
1951	1,594,694	10.4	29.4	28.1	86.6	164.9
1950	1,667,231	11.1	30.7	29.8	90.2	166.4
1949	1,579,798	10.6	29.4	28.5	86.7	158.0
1948	1,811,155	12.4	34.0	33.0	98.5	174.7
1947	1,991,878	13.9	37.9	36.8	106.2	182.7
1946	2,291,045	16.4	44.5	42.8	118.1	199.0
1945	1,612,992	12.2	35.8	30.5	83.6	138.2
1944	1,452,394	10.9	31.2	27.8	76.5	124.5
1943	1,577,050	11.7	32.2	30.6	83.0	133.5
1942	1,772,132	13.2	35.6	34.8	93.0	147.6
1941	1,695,999	12.7	34.0	33.7	88.5	138.4
1940	1,595,879	12.1	32.3	32.3	82.8	122.4

¹Rates for 1981–88 are revised and may differ from rates published previously. See Technical notes.

Table 2. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1980, 1989, and 1990

[By place of occurrence. Data are counts of marriages performed, except as noted. Rates per 1,000 population enumerated as of April 1 for 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for 1989 and 1990]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1990	1989	1980	1990	1989	1980
United States	2,443,489	2,403,268	2,390,252	9.8	9.7	10.6
Regions:						
Northeast	408,900	418,270	400,313	8.0	8.2	8.1
Midwest	522,415	510,486	569,237	8.7	8.6	9.7
South	930,746	910,281	880,185	10.9	10.7	11.7
West	581,428	564,231	540,517	11.0	10.9	12.5
Northeast:						
New England	110,454	113,842	106,328	8.4	8.6	8.6
Middle Atlantic	298,446	304,428	293,985	7.9	8.1	8.0
Midwest:						
East North Central	366,910	353,684	395,517	8.7	8.4	9.5
West North Central	155,505	156,802	173,720	8.8	8.9	10.1
South:						
South Atlantic	457,214	450,373	413,113	10.5	10.5	11.2
East South Central	185,207	182,481	¹ 168,828	12.2	12.1	¹ 11.5
West South Central	288,325	277,427	298,244	10.8	10.4	12.6
West:						
Mountain	248,414	238,177	241,704	18.1	17.6	21.3
Pacific	333,014	326,054	298,813	8.5	8.5	9.4
New England:						
Maine	11,915	12,386	12,040	9.7	10.2	10.7
New Hampshire	10,535	11,129	9,251	9.5	10.1	10.0
Vermont	6,128	6,140	5,226	10.9	11.0	10.2
Massachusetts	47,696	49,173	46,273	7.9	8.2	8.1
Rhode Island	8,134	8,266	7,490	8.1	8.3	7.9
Connecticut	26,046	26,748	26,048	7.9	8.1	8.4
Middle Atlantic:						
New York	² 154,774	² 156,765	144,518	² 8.6	² 8.7	8.2
New Jersey	58,747	60,076	55,794	7.6	7.8	7.6
Pennsylvania	84,925	87,587	93,673	7.1	7.4	7.9
East North Central:						
Ohio	98,076	97,782	99,832	9.0	9.0	9.2
Indiana	53,169	53,445	57,853	9.6	9.7	10.5
Illinois	100,632	85,720	109,823	8.8	7.5	9.6
Michigan	76,099	76,210	86,898	8.2	8.2	9.4
Wisconsin	38,934	40,527	41,111	7.9	8.3	8.7
West North Central:						
Minnesota	33,688	34,326	37,641	7.7	7.9	9.2
Iowa	24,931	25,267	27,474	9.0	9.1	9.4
Missouri	49,063	50,331	54,625	9.6	9.9	11.1
North Dakota	4,762	4,847	6,094	7.5	7.5	9.3
South Dakota	7,716	7,108	8,800	11.1	10.2	12.7
Nebraska	12,625	12,709	14,239	8.0	8.1	9.1
Kansas	22,720	22,214	24,847	9.2	9.0	10.5
South Atlantic:						
Delaware	5,639	5,943	4,437	8.4	9.0	7.5
Maryland	46,316	46,202	46,278	9.7	9.8	11.0
District of Columbia	4,960	4,945	5,182	8.2	7.9	8.1
Virginia	71,043	69,001	60,210	11.4	11.3	11.3
West Virginia	13,003	13,279	17,391	7.2	7.3	8.9
North Carolina	51,923	51,017	46,718	7.8	7.8	7.9
South Carolina	55,754	54,694	53,915	15.9	15.8	17.3
Georgia	66,760	67,400	70,638	10.3	10.5	12.9
Florida	141,816	137,892	108,344	10.9	10.9	11.1
East South Central:						
Kentucky	49,790	50,093	¹ 32,727	13.5	13.6	¹ 8.9
Tennessee	68,019	64,990	59,175	13.9	13.4	12.9
Alabama	43,050	43,158	49,018	10.6	10.7	12.6
Mississippi	24,348	24,240	27,908	9.4	9.4	11.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Marriages and marriage rates: United States, each region, division, and State, 1980, 1989, and 1990—Con.

[By place of occurrence. Data are counts of marriages performed, except as noted. Rates per 1,000 population enumerated as of April 1 for 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for 1989 and 1990]

Region, division, and State	Number			Rate		
	1990	1989	1980	1990	1989	1980
West South Central:						
Arkansas	36,020	34,822	26,513	15.3	14.8	11.6
Louisiana	40,443	38,559	43,460	9.6	9.1	10.3
Oklahoma	33,249	33,082	46,509	10.6	10.5	15.4
Texas	178,613	170,964	181,762	10.5	10.2	12.8
Mountain:						
Montana	6,924	6,758	8,336	8.6	8.4	10.6
Idaho	14,064	13,193	13,428	13.9	13.3	14.2
Wyoming	4,852	4,624	6,868	10.7	10.1	14.6
Colorado	32,362	31,934	34,917	9.8	9.7	12.1
New Mexico	13,324	³ 12,998	16,641	8.8	³ 8.6	12.8
Arizona	36,842	⁴ 35,738	30,223	10.0	⁴ 9.9	11.1
Utah	19,427	18,598	16,958	11.2	10.9	11.6
Nevada	120,619	114,334	114,333	99.0	100.6	142.8
Pacific:						
Washington	46,554	45,278	47,728	9.5	9.5	11.6
Oregon	25,348	23,839	23,004	8.9	8.5	8.7
California	⁴ 237,135	⁴ 233,293	210,864	⁴ 7.9	⁴ 8.0	8.9
Alaska	5,671	5,673	5,361	10.2	10.4	13.3
Hawaii	18,306	17,971	11,856	16.4	16.4	12.3

¹Data are incomplete.

²Figure used for New York City is the total number of valid marriage certificates provided to the National Center for Health Statistics.

³Data are premarital health examination forms issued.

⁴Data include marriage licenses issued for some counties.

Table 3. Marriages and marriage rates, by month: United States, 1980, 1989, and 1990

[Rates on an annual basis per 1,000 population]

Month	Number			Rate		
	1990	1989	1980	1990	1989	1980
Total	2,443,489	2,403,268	2,390,252	9.8	9.7	10.6
January	117,310	114,278	125,964	5.6	5.5	6.6
February	147,056	136,754	148,611	7.7	7.3	8.3
March	168,118	156,443	166,231	8.0	7.5	8.7
April	185,379	193,561	177,340	9.1	9.6	9.6
May	226,131	225,017	236,776	10.7	10.8	12.3
June	280,218	271,919	276,006	13.7	13.4	14.8
July	219,936	237,862	215,203	10.4	11.3	11.2
August	250,493	234,226	277,460	11.8	11.2	14.4
September	255,029	254,683	203,020	12.4	12.5	10.9
October	213,769	211,645	197,125	10.1	10.1	10.2
November	184,405	170,228	188,888	9.0	8.4	10.1
December	195,645	196,652	177,628	9.2	9.3	9.2

Table 4. Total marriage rate by marriage order of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1972–90

[Based on sample data. Marriages per 1,000 women or men if age-sex specific rates for a given year were constant throughout their lives. Figures for marriage order not stated have been distributed. Beginning in 1977, figures exclude data for Iowa. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Year	Total marriage rate		Total first-marriage rate		Total remarriage rate	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
1990	1,130.0	1,143.8	714.6	695.5	415.4	448.3
1989	1,120.4	1,144.3	717.5	705.6	402.9	438.7
1988	1,115.7	1,145.2	709.1	702.1	406.6	443.1
1987	1,106.2	1,138.6	699.4	689.6	406.8	449.0
1986	1,113.5	1,150.1	698.6	689.4	414.9	460.7
1985	1,113.0	1,155.5	699.3	688.9	413.7	466.6
1984	1,139.2	1,192.4	704.6	698.1	434.6	494.3
1983	1,131.9	1,189.4	703.0	697.4	428.9	492.0
1982	1,143.6	1,206.4	710.9	703.4	432.7	503.0
1981	1,113.9	1,218.0	687.2	711.4	426.7	506.6
1980	1,128.4	1,207.5	706.2	714.4	422.2	493.1
1979	1,130.0	1,243.2	704.4	739.4	425.6	503.8
1978	1,112.4	1,227.3	696.5	733.7	415.9	493.6
1977	1,098.4	1,213.9	687.6	727.7	410.8	486.2
1976	1,100.7	1,218.0	695.5	737.5	405.2	480.5
1975	1,125.7	1,246.2	720.8	774.4	404.9	471.8
1974	1,191.5	1,317.1	789.8	852.7	401.7	464.4
1973	1,249.1	1,382.3	843.4	920.0	405.7	462.3
1972	1,254.8	1,401.9	866.9	960.8	387.9	441.1

Table 5. Marriage rates by previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970–90

[Based on sample data. Figures exclude data for Iowa beginning with 1977. Figures for previously divorced and previously widowed exclude data for Michigan and Ohio for all years, for South Carolina beginning with 1972, and for the District of Columbia for 1970. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes. Rates per 1,000 population ages 15 years and over in specified group enumerated as of April 1 for 1970 and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Year	Previous marital status of women			Previous marital status of men		
	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed
1990	57.7	76.2	5.2	47.0	105.9	23.8
1989	58.7	75.6	5.1	48.2	105.6	24.5
1988	58.4	78.6	5.3	48.3	109.7	25.1
1987	58.9	80.7	5.4	48.8	115.7	26.1
1986	59.7	79.5	5.5	49.1	117.8	26.8
1985	61.5	81.8	5.7	50.1	121.6	27.7
1984	63.5	87.3	5.8	51.6	132.7	28.7
1983	63.8	91.6	6.2	51.8	142.1	30.7
1982	66.0	94.4	6.1	53.1	146.9	32.1
1981	64.9	96.3	6.5	53.8	150.8	30.8
1980	66.0	91.3	6.7	54.7	142.1	32.2
1979	67.8	104.0	7.7	56.3	165.6	35.3
1978	68.2	105.0	7.1	56.4	168.6	32.7
1977	69.2	107.3	7.6	56.7	173.4	35.3
1976	72.0	111.3	7.9	58.2	185.0	37.6
1975	75.9	117.2	8.3	61.5	189.8	40.4
1974	83.5	121.7	9.1	68.0	198.7	38.9
1973	90.9	131.0	9.3	73.9	221.3	39.3
1972	95.1	130.6	9.4	77.2	229.0	40.6
1971	93.3	132.8	9.6	75.2	230.7	42.5
1970	93.4	123.3	10.2	80.4	204.5	40.6

Table 6. Marriage rates by age and previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970, 1980, 1989, and 1990

[Based on sample data. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes. Marriages of persons under 15 years of age are included in the youngest age groups; rates are based on populations that exclude persons under 15 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations. Rates per 1,000 population in specified age group enumerated as of April 1 for 1970 and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Age and previous marital status	Women				Men			
	1990	1989	1980	1970	1990	1989	1980	1970
All marriages¹								
Total	47.8	47.9	54.2	69.4	56.2	57.0	66.8	88.4
15–19 years	28.8	30.0	47.2	---	10.4	11.0	17.4	---
15–17 years	10.8	11.4	20.2	35.8	1.5	1.7	3.0	5.4
18–19 years	53.8	56.1	90.9	156.7	22.3	23.7	39.2	74.4
20–24 years	100.0	104.4	130.8	234.2	67.2	73.3	100.4	205.7
25–29 years	127.4	124.5	126.3	170.1	107.1	105.3	131.2	217.6
30–34 years	97.2	95.8	95.0	111.3	90.9	89.6	122.8	160.8
35–39 years	69.3	69.3	---	---	79.4	76.8	---	---
40–44 years	50.0	49.2	---	---	69.7	75.9	---	---
45–49 years	36.2	34.3	---	---	59.1	60.2	---	---
50–54 years	21.4	21.2	---	---	53.2	47.3	---	---
55–59 years	11.7	10.4	11.7	---	34.8	36.4	38.4	---
60–64 years	8.1	7.1	8.3	---	27.2	26.6	31.7	---
65 years and over	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	12.5	12.9	15.2	15.6
First marriages²								
Total	57.7	58.7	66.0	93.4	47.0	48.2	54.7	80.4
15–19 years	28.2	29.3	45.4	---	10.3	10.8	17.0	---
15–17 years	10.7	11.3	19.8	35.0	1.5	1.7	2.9	5.2
18–19 years	52.5	54.7	87.3	151.4	22.1	23.5	38.4	73.0
20–24 years	92.6	96.7	119.8	220.1	64.0	69.7	94.5	195.7
25–29 years	109.4	109.8	101.6	132.8	95.7	94.2	109.9	181.5
30–34 years	70.8	68.3	56.3	66.5	66.2	66.2	75.5	98.8
35–39 years	41.1	40.3	---	---	46.3	42.2	---	---
40–44 years	19.5	21.4	---	---	25.7	28.5	---	---
45–49 years	12.9	11.0	---	---	14.3	12.9	---	---
50–54 years	7.8	7.0	---	---	11.7	10.6	---	---
55–59 years	4.2	4.0	4.6	---	5.8	6.4	8.0	---
60–64 years	3.8	3.7	3.8	---	5.0	4.9	6.2	---
65 years and over	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.4
Remarriages²								
Total	35.8	34.8	38.3	36.6	84.5	84.1	108.3	116.5
15–19 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
20–24 years	245.9	252.9	230.4	---	220.4	241.8	---	---
25–29 years	200.0	176.2	178.6	251.3	201.8	200.3	226.7	---
30–34 years	137.7	137.7	129.0	164.1	177.5	165.0	225.2	420.3
35–39 years	89.6	89.2	---	---	125.7	126.0	203.9	345.2
40–44 years	65.2	60.7	---	---	109.5	113.8	---	---
45–49 years	43.3	41.8	---	---	88.0	93.7	---	---
50–54 years	24.8	24.9	---	---	75.0	64.6	---	---
55–59 years	13.0	11.6	13.2	---	52.8	53.0	58.6	---
60–64 years	8.7	7.6	9.1	---	37.7	37.2	46.2	---
65 years and over	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.5	15.0	15.7	19.0	19.9
Previously widowed ³	5.2	5.1	6.7	10.2	23.8	24.5	32.2	40.6
15–44 years	43.6	42.2	51.0	54.1	82.4	72.7	106.7	107.8
45–64 years	11.0	9.8	12.2	17.7	49.8	50.5	59.2	79.2
65 years and over	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.3	14.0	14.3	17.8	19.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Marriage rates by age and previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area, 1970, 1980, 1989, and 1990—Con.

[Based on sample data. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes. Marriages of persons under 15 years of age are included in the youngest age groups; rates are based on populations that exclude persons under 15 years of age. Rates for all marriages are based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations. Rates per 1,000 population in specified age group enumerated as of April 1 for 1970 and 1980 and estimated as of July 1 for all other years]

Age and previous marital status	Women				Men			
	1990	1989	1980	1970	1990	1989	1980	1970
Remarriages ² —Con.								
Previously divorced ³	76.2	75.6	91.3	123.3	105.9	105.6	142.1	204.5
15–19 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
20–24 years	252.3	248.6	234.2	---	225.0	238.0	224.1	---
25–29 years	199.8	174.0	180.8	---	200.3	195.5	220.1	---
30–34 years	137.5	138.3	131.8	---	173.7	164.7	201.8	---
35–39 years	92.8	91.9	---	---	124.5	123.9	---	---
40–44 years	69.3	64.3	---	---	110.4	113.2	---	---
45–49 years	47.3	45.5	---	---	86.6	92.0	---	---
50–54 years	28.2	28.4	---	---	72.9	65.6	---	---
55–59 years	17.1	15.9	18.1	---	51.4	49.2	57.6	---
60–64 years	11.5	10.8	12.5	---	35.3	33.7	45.3	---
65 years and over	4.5	4.9	5.3	6.1	19.1	20.3	22.8	23.6

¹Figures exclude data for Iowa in 1980.

²Figures exclude data for Iowa for 1980, 1989, and 1990.

³Figures exclude data for Michigan and Ohio for all years, Iowa and South Carolina for 1980, 1989, and 1990, and the District of Columbia for 1970.

Table 7. Percent distribution of marriages by previous marital status of both bride and groom: Reporting States, 1970–90

[Based on sample data]

Year	Total	Wife previously single and husband previously—			Wife previously divorced and husband previously—			Wife previously widowed and husband previously—		
		Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Widowed
1990	100.0	53.7	10.9	0.3	11.0	19.7	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.2
1989	100.0	54.5	10.8	0.4	10.9	19.1	1.3	0.5	1.3	1.3
1988	100.0	54.5	10.7	0.4	10.9	19.0	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.3
1987	100.0	54.3	11.0	0.4	10.7	19.1	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.4
1986	100.0	54.4	11.0	0.3	10.7	18.9	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.4
1985	100.0	54.7	11.1	0.3	10.4	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.5
1984	100.0	55.0	11.1	0.4	10.2	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.5
1983	100.0	54.8	11.2	0.4	10.0	18.9	1.3	0.5	1.5	1.5
1982	100.0	55.1	11.3	0.4	9.8	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.4	1.5
1981	100.0	54.9	11.4	0.4	9.6	18.8	1.3	0.5	1.5	1.5
1980	100.0	56.5	10.8	0.4	9.3	17.8	1.4	0.5	1.5	1.6
1979	100.0	56.7	10.8	0.5	8.9	17.6	1.4	0.6	1.7	1.9
1978	100.0	57.3	10.7	0.5	8.7	17.4	1.4	0.6	1.7	1.7
1977	100.0	57.8	10.3	0.5	8.5	17.2	1.4	0.6	1.7	1.9
1976	100.0	58.9	10.1	0.6	8.2	16.4	1.5	0.6	1.8	2.0
1975	100.0	60.5	9.3	0.6	7.8	15.5	1.6	0.7	1.8	2.1
1974	100.0	63.1	8.6	0.6	7.3	14.0	1.4	0.8	2.0	2.1
1973	100.0	64.8	8.1	0.6	7.1	13.2	1.4	0.7	1.8	2.1
1972	100.0	67.1	7.6	0.6	6.6	12.0	1.4	0.8	1.8	2.1
1971	100.0	68.2	7.2	0.7	6.4	11.1	1.5	0.9	1.8	2.2
1970	100.0	68.8	6.9	0.7	6.4	10.7	1.4	0.9	1.8	2.4

NOTE: In 1970 previous marital status was reported by 38 States: Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Starting in 1971 the District of Columbia also reported this item. After 1976 Iowa no longer reported it. In 1979 Colorado joined the MRA, bringing the total of reporting areas back to 38 States plus the District of Columbia for the 1979–90 period.

Table 8. Marriages, 1989 and 1990, and percent distribution of marriages, 1970, 1980, 1989, and 1990 by age according to previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area

[Based on sample data. For sampling errors of estimates and a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Age and previous marital status	Women						Men					
	Number		Percent				Number		Percent			
	1990	1989	1990	1989	1980	1970	1990	1989	1990	1989	1980	1970
All marriages												
Total	1,869,892	1,856,812	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,869,892	1,856,812	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	203,854	215,006	10.9	11.6	21.1	32.5	79,946	84,343	4.3	4.5	8.5	14.0
Under 18 years	44,392	47,762	2.4	2.6	5.6	10.0	6,790	7,441	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.6
18–19 years	159,462	167,244	8.5	9.0	15.6	22.5	73,156	76,902	3.9	4.1	7.6	12.4
20–24 years	547,411	563,332	29.3	30.3	37.1	39.7	461,213	476,640	24.7	25.7	35.7	45.9
25–29 years	459,064	451,773	24.6	24.3	18.7	10.4	507,481	510,293	27.1	27.5	23.8	16.7
30–34 years	265,661	256,034	14.2	13.8	9.3	4.7	309,543	297,889	16.6	16.0	12.3	6.6
35–39 years	158,856	149,362	8.5	8.0	4.8	3.2	186,656	173,494	10.0	9.3	6.5	4.2
40–44 years	101,889	93,557	5.4	5.0	2.9	2.7	120,649	116,696	6.5	6.3	4.0	3.3
45–49 years	56,132	53,156	3.0	2.9	2.0	2.3	72,919	70,140	3.9	3.8	2.8	2.7
50–54 years	28,865	27,539	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	46,642	42,020	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9
55–59 years	16,206	15,304	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2	29,260	28,405	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
60–64 years	13,088	12,436	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	20,683	21,394	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
65 years and over	18,866	19,313	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	34,900	35,498	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9
First marriages¹												
Total	1,178,589	1,184,505	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,186,073	1,189,721	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	196,223	206,680	16.6	17.4	30.4	41.8	78,036	82,221	6.6	6.9	12.7	18.4
Under 18 years	43,420	46,614	3.7	3.9	8.2	13.0	6,733	7,314	0.6	0.6	1.3	2.1
18–19 years	152,803	160,066	13.0	13.5	22.2	28.8	71,303	74,907	6.0	6.3	11.4	16.3
20–24 years	480,860	494,689	40.8	41.8	47.3	46.0	426,696	440,092	36.0	37.0	50.0	57.0
25–29 years	320,218	316,108	27.2	26.7	16.0	7.7	406,674	409,853	34.3	34.4	25.7	16.2
30–34 years	119,198	110,984	10.1	9.4	4.0	2.0	175,501	168,311	14.8	14.1	7.5	4.1
35–39 years	39,908	35,678	3.4	3.0	1.1	0.9	63,247	55,841	5.3	4.7	2.0	1.8
40–44 years	13,050	11,706	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.6	21,027	19,446	1.8	1.6	0.9	1.0
45–49 years	4,686	4,190	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	6,880	6,200	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
50–54 years	2,094	1,844	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3,485	2,966	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
55–59 years	917	949	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,851	1,789	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
60–64 years	796	849	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,240	1,326	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
65 years and over	639	828	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,436	1,676	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Remarriages¹												
Total	651,984	632,599	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	645,613	628,381	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	3,670	3,630	0.6	0.6	1.7	2.9	400	471	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
20–24 years	52,379	53,861	8.0	8.5	15.3	18.8	22,924	24,181	3.6	3.8	7.2	10.1
25–29 years	128,217	125,665	19.7	19.9	24.4	19.2	88,992	88,933	13.8	14.2	20.1	18.5
30–34 years	141,593	140,477	21.7	22.2	20.6	13.1	128,330	123,767	19.9	19.7	21.9	14.6
35–39 years	116,606	111,262	17.9	17.6	12.7	10.7	120,395	114,684	18.6	18.3	15.4	12.0
40–44 years	87,422	80,488	13.4	12.7	8.1	9.6	97,928	95,477	15.2	15.2	10.2	10.7
45–49 years	50,657	48,230	7.8	7.6	5.6	8.4	64,977	63,044	10.1	10.0	7.3	9.5
50–54 years	26,368	25,352	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.7	42,527	38,514	6.6	6.1	5.6	7.0
55–59 years	15,067	14,124	2.3	2.2	2.6	4.6	26,969	26,277	4.2	4.2	4.0	5.7
60–64 years	12,136	11,393	1.9	1.8	2.1	3.3	19,241	19,785	3.0	3.1	3.0	4.2
65 years and over	17,869	18,117	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.6	32,930	33,248	5.1	5.3	5.1	7.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Marriages, 1989 and 1990, and percent distribution of marriages, 1970, 1980, 1989, and 1990 by age according to previous marital status of women and men: Marriage-registration area—Con.

[Based on sample data. For sampling errors of estimates and a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Age and previous marital status	Women						Men					
	Number		Percent				Number		Percent			
	1990	1989	1990	1989	1980	1970	1990	1989	1990	1989	1980	1970
Remarriages ¹ —Con.												
Previously widowed ²	49,139	49,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	45,524	46,843	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 25 years	874	823	1.8	1.7	3.0	4.6	154	149	*	*	0.7	1.1
25–29 years	1,922	1,999	3.9	4.1	5.6	5.0	566	702	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.5
30–34 years	3,568	3,684	7.3	7.5	6.3	5.2	1,366	1,209	3.0	2.6	3.5	3.0
35–39 years	4,213	4,303	8.6	8.8	7.2	7.4	1,905	2,052	4.2	4.4	3.8	4.0
40–44 years	5,116	4,962	10.4	10.1	8.6	10.2	2,849	2,645	6.3	5.6	5.0	6.6
45–49 years	5,114	4,953	10.4	10.1	10.5	13.7	2,959	3,063	6.5	6.5	7.3	9.8
50–54 years	4,750	4,865	9.7	9.9	12.6	14.2	3,717	3,932	8.2	8.4	10.9	11.9
55–59 years	5,082	4,601	10.3	9.4	11.4	13.8	5,263	5,275	11.6	11.3	13.6	14.9
60–64 years	6,032	6,318	12.3	12.9	13.2	11.5	6,374	7,274	14.0	15.5	14.5	13.7
65 years and over	12,468	12,492	25.4	25.5	21.6	14.2	20,371	20,542	44.7	43.9	38.9	32.4
Previously divorced ²	511,750	495,983	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	512,853	495,827	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years	3,076	2,953	0.6	0.6	1.7	3.6	290	411	*	0.1	0.2	0.4
20–24 years	44,157	44,999	8.6	9.1	16.7	22.8	19,571	20,708	3.8	4.2	7.7	11.9
25–29 years	107,094	105,981	20.9	21.4	26.7	23.2	75,896	74,858	14.8	15.1	21.7	22.0
30–34 years	117,823	117,392	23.0	23.7	22.5	15.2	108,933	105,261	21.2	21.2	24.1	17.4
35–39 years	96,516	91,754	18.9	18.5	13.6	11.7	101,731	97,494	19.8	19.7	16.9	13.9
40–44 years	70,029	64,332	13.7	13.0	8.0	9.6	81,713	80,369	15.9	16.2	10.8	11.6
45–49 years	38,899	36,705	7.6	7.4	5.0	6.8	54,009	50,803	10.5	10.2	7.4	9.6
50–54 years	17,941	17,007	3.5	3.4	2.8	3.4	33,186	29,657	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.9
55–59 years	8,416	7,883	1.6	1.6	1.5	2.1	18,348	17,662	3.6	3.6	3.0	3.6
60–64 years	4,479	3,710	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.0	10,303	9,820	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.0
65 years and over	3,320	3,267	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	8,873	8,784	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.5
Not stated if widowed or divorced . . .	91,095	87,616	...	...	...	...	87,236	85,711	...	...	...	...
Not stated if previously married												
Total	39,319	39,708	...	...	...	...	38,206	38,710	...	...	...	...

¹Figures for first marriages and remarriages exclude data for Iowa beginning in 1977; these data are included in "Not stated if previously married."²Data exclude remarriages in Michigan and Ohio for all years, for South Carolina beginning in 1972, and for the District of Columbia for 1970. These data are included in "Not stated if widowed or divorced."

Table 9. Median and mean age of bride and groom by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1964–90

[Based on sample data. Figures by previous marital status exclude data for Iowa beginning with 1977. Figures for previously divorced and previously widowed exclude data for Michigan and Ohio for all years, for South Carolina beginning with 1972, and for the District of Columbia for 1970. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Year	Previous marital status of bride					Previous marital status of groom				
	Total ¹	First marriage	Remarriage			Total ¹	First marriage	Remarriage		
			Total ²	Previously divorced	Previously widowed			Total ²	Previously divorced	Previously widowed
Median age										
1990	26.7	24.0	35.0	34.2	54.0	28.7	25.9	38.3	37.4	63.1
1989	26.4	23.9	34.7	34.0	53.8	28.4	25.7	38.3	37.3	62.9
1988	26.1	23.7	34.5	33.6	53.9	28.1	25.5	38.0	37.0	63.0
1987	25.9	23.6	34.1	33.3	53.9	28.0	25.3	37.7	36.7	62.8
1986	25.7	23.3	33.9	33.1	54.3	27.8	25.1	37.5	36.6	62.9
1985	25.3	23.0	33.6	32.8	54.6	27.5	24.8	37.1	36.1	62.7
1984	25.0	22.8	33.3	32.5	54.2	27.2	24.6	36.8	35.9	62.4
1983	24.8	22.5	32.9	32.0	54.0	27.0	24.4	36.2	35.3	62.0
1982	24.4	22.3	32.5	31.6	54.1	26.7	24.1	35.7	34.9	61.7
1981	24.1	22.0	32.1	31.2	53.6	26.3	23.9	35.3	34.4	61.0
1980	23.7	21.8	32.0	31.0	53.6	25.9	23.6	35.2	34.0	61.2
1979	23.4	21.6	31.9	30.8	55.2	25.8	23.4	35.3	33.9	61.7
1978	23.2	21.4	31.5	30.5	52.6	25.5	23.2	35.1	33.8	59.7
1977	22.9	21.1	31.4	30.2	53.1	25.2	23.0	34.9	33.6	60.1
1976	22.7	21.0	31.7	30.1	53.0	25.0	22.9	35.1	33.7	60.0
1975	22.4	20.8	32.0	30.2	52.4	24.7	22.7	35.5	33.6	59.4
1974	22.0	20.6	32.1	30.0	51.9	24.2	22.5	35.7	33.6	59.2
1973	21.9	20.6	32.3	30.2	52.1	24.1	22.5	36.3	33.9	59.3
1972	21.7	20.5	32.8	30.3	51.4	23.8	22.4	36.5	34.0	59.1
1971	21.7	20.5	32.9	30.2	51.8	23.7	22.5	36.9	34.1	59.1
1970	21.7	20.6	33.3	30.1	51.2	23.6	22.5	37.5	34.5	58.7
1969	21.6	20.6	33.8	30.4	51.3	23.5	22.4	38.2	34.7	59.0
1968	21.5	20.6	33.8	30.7	50.6	23.6	22.4	38.3	35.1	57.9
1967	21.4	20.5	35.0	31.3	50.0	23.8	22.6	39.1	35.5	57.7
1966	21.5	20.3	35.2	31.4	50.2	23.8	22.6	39.2	35.8	57.9
1965	21.4	20.4	35.5	31.7	50.1	23.6	22.5	39.6	36.0	57.8
1964	21.4	20.4	35.6	31.7	50.3	23.6	22.4	39.7	36.4	58.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Median and mean age of bride and groom by previous marital status: Marriage-registration area, 1964–90—Con.

[Based on sample data. Figures by previous marital status exclude data for Iowa beginning with 1977. Figures for previously divorced and previously widowed exclude data for Michigan and Ohio for all years, for South Carolina beginning with 1972, and for the District of Columbia for 1970. For a description of the marriage-registration area, see Technical notes]

Year	Previous marital status of bride					Previous marital status of groom				
	Total ¹	First marriage	Remarriage			Total ¹	First marriage	Remarriage		
			Total ²	Previously divorced	Previously widowed			Total ²	Previously divorced	Previously widowed
Mean age										
1990	29.3	25.0	37.0	35.6	53.4	31.7	26.9	40.7	39.0	61.1
1989	29.0	24.8	36.9	35.3	53.3	31.5	26.7	40.6	38.8	61.1
1988	28.8	24.6	36.7	35.0	53.1	31.3	26.5	40.5	38.6	60.9
1987	28.6	24.5	36.4	34.7	53.1	31.2	26.4	40.3	38.4	60.9
1986	28.4	24.3	36.2	34.6	53.3	31.0	26.2	40.1	38.2	61.2
1985	28.1	24.0	36.1	34.3	53.3	30.8	25.9	39.9	37.9	61.1
1984	27.8	23.8	35.9	34.0	52.8	30.5	25.7	39.7	37.7	60.8
1983	27.6	23.5	35.6	33.7	52.6	30.3	25.5	39.3	37.3	60.2
1982	27.3	23.3	35.3	33.4	52.6	30.0	25.3	39.0	37.0	59.9
1981	27.0	23.0	35.0	33.0	52.2	29.8	25.0	38.7	36.6	59.5
1980	26.7	22.7	35.0	32.8	52.2	29.4	24.8	38.7	36.5	59.6
1979	26.7	22.5	35.4	32.8	53.4	29.5	24.6	38.9	36.4	60.0
1978	26.3	22.3	34.9	32.6	51.4	29.1	24.4	38.5	36.2	58.4
1977	26.2	22.2	35.0	32.5	51.8	29.0	24.3	38.6	36.1	58.9
1976	26.1	22.1	35.3	32.5	51.8	28.9	24.1	38.8	36.2	58.6
1975	25.9	21.9	35.5	32.7	51.2	28.7	24.0	39.1	36.3	58.2
1974	25.6	21.7	35.7	32.5	51.0	28.3	23.8	39.4	36.3	58.2
1973	25.5	21.7	36.0	32.8	51.0	28.1	23.8	39.6	36.4	58.1
1972	25.2	21.6	36.2	32.9	50.7	27.9	23.7	39.8	36.5	58.0
1971	25.1	21.6	36.4	32.8	50.6	27.8	23.7	40.3	36.6	57.7
1970	25.1	21.6	36.6	32.8	50.3	27.8	23.8	40.6	36.7	57.7
1969	25.1	21.6	36.9	33.0	50.4	27.7	23.8	40.9	36.9	57.7
1968	25.0	21.6	36.9	33.2	49.9	27.7	23.8	41.0	37.1	57.0
1967	25.1	21.6	37.4	33.3	49.7	28.0	24.0	41.4	37.4	56.7
1966	25.2	21.5	37.6	33.6	49.7	28.0	24.0	41.6	37.6	57.0
1965	25.2	21.6	37.7	33.6	49.7	28.1	24.0	42.0	37.8	56.7
1964	25.3	21.4	37.8	33.1	50.0	28.3	24.0	42.1	37.8	57.0

¹Figures include previous marital status not stated.

²Figures include divorced or widowed not stated.

Table 10. Marriages and mean age at marriage by race and previous marital status of bride and groom: Total of 34 reporting States, 1989 and 1990

[Based on sample data]

			Remarriage				Previous marital status not stated
Race	Total	First marriage	Total	Previously divorced ¹	Previously widowed ¹	Widowed or divorced not stated	
1990			Number				
Bride:							
All races.	1,250,064	763,758	474,827	408,231	38,785	27,811	11,479
White.	1,075,920	642,071	425,944	367,256	34,871	23,817	7,905
Black.	136,847	97,914	38,506	31,881	3,000	3,625	427
Other races.	24,529	17,878	6,418	5,589	535	294	233
Race not stated	12,768	5,895	3,959	3,505	379	75	2,914
Groom:							
All races.	1,250,064	773,753	465,695	404,543	35,367	25,785	10,616
White.	1,073,144	653,632	412,283	359,334	31,468	21,481	7,229
Black.	144,272	98,908	44,713	37,380	3,343	3,990	651
Other races.	20,853	15,750	4,877	4,328	254	295	226
Race not stated	11,795	5,463	3,822	3,501	302	19	2,510
Mean age							
Bride:							
All races.	29.2	24.6	36.8	35.3	53.5	36.1	26.3
White.	29.2	24.2	36.7	35.1	53.9	35.8	25.7
Black.	29.8	26.7	37.8	36.7	50.0	37.9	27.3
Other races.	28.8	26.0	36.8	36.1	45.6	*	*
Race not stated	29.4	24.9	87.1	35.9	48.4	*	27.9
Groom:							
All races.	31.7	26.5	40.4	38.7	61.2	39.4	28.1
White.	31.7	26.2	40.3	38.5	61.6	39.2	27.3
Black.	32.2	28.0	41.5	40.1	58.0	40.8	29.3
Other races.	30.6	27.9	39.3	38.4	*	*	*
Race not stated	31.9	27.1	39.9	38.6	*	*	30.0
1989			Number				
Bride:							
All races.	1,229,398	761,810	455,732	391,299	38,019	26,414	11,856
White.	1,059,960	641,145	410,730	353,716	34,095	22,919	8,085
Black.	134,368	98,056	35,560	29,264	3,196	3,100	752
Other races.	23,771	17,672	5,994	5,207	459	328	105
Race not stated	11,299	4,937	3,448	3,112	269	67	2,914
Groom:							
All races.	1,229,398	771,089	447,009	386,591	35,389	25,029	11,300
White.	1,057,643	651,431	398,427	345,693	31,144	21,590	7,785
Black.	140,685	99,413	40,556	33,671	3,655	3,230	716
Other races.	20,450	15,466	4,830	4,332	321	177	154
Race not stated	10,620	4,779	3,196	2,895	269	32	2,645
Mean age							
Bride:							
All races.	28.9	24.3	36.7	35.1	53.4	35.8	26.2
White.	28.9	24.0	36.6	34.9	54.0	35.8	25.7
Black.	29.3	26.3	37.7	36.7	47.9	35.7	27.4
Other races.	28.4	25.8	35.9	35.3	43.7	33.3	*
Race not stated	29.2	24.7	37.1	35.5	*	*	27.6

See footnote at end of table.

Table 10. Marriages and mean age at marriage by race and previous marital status of bride and groom: Total of 34 reporting States, 1989 and 1990—Con.

[Based on sample data]

Race	Total	First marriage	Remarriage				Previous marital status not stated
			Total	Previously divorced ¹	Previously widowed ¹	Widowed or divorced not stated	
1989—Con.			Mean age				
Groom:							
All races.	31.4	26.3	40.4	38.6	61.3	39.2	27.8
White.	31.4	26.0	40.3	38.4	61.8	39.0	27.2
Black.	31.7	27.8	41.5	39.9	57.7	40.1	28.0
Other races.	30.7	27.8	40.0	38.8	56.3	*	*
Race not stated	31.6	26.8	40.6	38.8	*	*	29.5

¹Data exclude remarriages in South Carolina. These data are included in "Widowed or divorced not stated."

NOTE: Of the 42 States in the marriage-registration area in 1989 and 1990, 34 reported race of bride and groom—Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Those registration areas that did not report race are California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Ohio.

Table 11. Marriage rates by race, previous marital status, and age of women and men: Total of 34 Reporting States, 1990

[Based on sample data. Marriages of persons under 15 years of age are included in the youngest age groups; rates are based on populations that exclude persons under 15 years of age. Prior to calculations of rates, figures for not stated race were distributed. Rates for all marriages were based on the unmarried population; for first marriages, on the never-married population; and for remarriages, on the widowed and divorced populations. Rates per 1,000 in specified age and race groups enumerated as of April 1]

Age and previous marital status	Women			Men		
	All race ¹	White	Black	All races ¹	White	Black
All marriages						
Total	54.1	58.8	33.5	66.1	71.2	45.9
15–19 years	35.7	41.2	14.8	13.2	15.2	5.0
20–24 years	115.4	131.2	58.7	82.9	89.9	56.4
25–29 years	139.9	162.2	70.3	122.9	133.3	82.0
30–34 years	106.7	123.6	55.1	108.4	117.0	72.1
35–39 years	80.3	90.7	44.1	93.9	99.3	67.5
40–44 years	60.8	67.2	33.5	83.7	87.6	61.5
45–54 years	34.8	38.4	18.1	69.3	72.9	48.1
55–64 years	11.9	12.9	6.5	38.7	40.0	30.2
65 years and over	2.2	2.3	1.3	15.8	16.5	10.4
First marriages						
Total	64.4	72.5	38.0	54.6	58.9	39.2
15–19 years	34.9	40.2	14.8	13.1	15.1	5.0
20–24 years	106.6	121.3	57.0	79.1	85.6	55.8
25–29 years	118.3	139.2	64.5	109.5	119.2	75.8
30–34 years	73.5	85.8	46.5	78.8	85.4	56.7
35–39 years	41.2	43.1	35.2	51.0	51.9	46.0
40–44 years	23.0	22.6	24.0	30.1	29.7	31.9
45–54 years	11.1	10.6	12.5	16.3	15.3	19.9
55–64 years	4.2	3.9	*	6.7	5.4	12.5
65 years and over	0.8	0.7	*	3.1	2.7	*
Previously widowed ²						
Total	6.0	6.3	3.8	28.2	30.3	17.8
15–44 years	53.9	66.4	21.6	96.2	116.8	49.0
45–64 years	12.8	14.8	5.1	55.9	63.3	30.4
65 years and over	2.0	2.1	1.0	16.9	18.3	8.8
Previously divorced ²						
Total	86.8	94.7	45.1	117.0	122.5	85.4
15–19 years	*	*	*	*	*	*
20–24 years	241.5	253.3	130.2	207.2	220.0	92.3
25–29 years	202.5	216.7	110.7	199.5	205.8	154.7
30–34 years	148.0	162.5	76.8	173.2	179.3	135.5
35–39 years	106.3	118.0	55.7	140.0	146.2	106.2
40–44 years	75.8	82.9	41.5	115.7	120.4	91.1
45–54 years	44.9	48.6	25.7	92.5	96.8	69.7
55–64 years	17.3	18.6	11.4	51.4	53.0	43.6
65 years and over	5.0	5.4	*	22.9	24.0	17.5

¹Includes races other than white and black.

²Figures for previously widowed and previously divorced exclude data for South Carolina.

NOTE: Of the 42 States in the marriage-registration area in 1990, 34 reported race of bride and groom—Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Those registration areas that did not report race are California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Ohio.

Symbols

- - - Data not available
 - . . . Category not applicable
 - Quantity zero
 - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
 - * Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision
-

Technical notes

Place and time of occurrence

Marriages and marriage rates for States and other areas are by place of occurrence. Marriages are those performed during the calendar year.

Sources of data

Figures in tables 1–3 are based on totals reported by States and counties, except for New York City where the count of marriages is the total number of valid marriage certificates provided to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Figures in tables 4–11 are based on data tabulated from State-coded data tapes and from probability samples of records selected and coded in NCHS from copies of the records sent by States participating in the marriage-registration area (MRA). In 1989 and 1990 the MRA consisted of the District of Columbia and all except eight States—Arizona, Arkansas, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington.

Nonlicensed (confidential) marriages for California

Section 4213 of the California Civil Code allows unmarried couples who have been living together to be married confidentially without obtaining a marriage license or health certificate. In March 1972 this section was amended to require county clerks to keep sealed records of these marriages and to report periodically the total number to the California State Department of Health Services. Since reporting began, nonlicensed marriages have increased rapidly, from 2,857 in 1973, to 48,040 in 1980, to 90,494 in 1987. There were 94,791 nonlicensed marriages in 1989 and 103,206 in 1990. NCHS has not included the nonlicensed California marriages in totals or rates for years before 1978. However, beginning with final statistics for 1978, nonlicensed marriages are included in the national and regional totals and rates.

Marriage sample

Total counts of marriages shown in tables 1–3 are obtained from State offices for most States. For New Mexico

Table 1. Approximate sampling errors of estimated number of marriages shown in table 8: Marriage-registration area, 1989 and 1990

Percent of total MRA marriages in subclass	Sampling error	
	1989	1990
1 or 99	508	510
2 or 98	714	718
3 or 97	870	874
4 or 96	1,000	1,004
5 or 95	1,112	1,117
7 or 93	1,302	1,308
10 or 90	1,531	1,538
15 or 85	1,822	1,830
20 or 80	2,041	2,050
25 or 75	2,209	2,219
50	2,551	2,563

HOW TO USE THE SAMPLING ERROR TABLE: The total number of MRA marriages in 1990 (excluding nonlicensed California marriages) was 1,869,892. For any estimate of marriages shown in table 8, determine its percent of the total MRA marriages. Then look in the table of sampling errors for the row containing the computed percent to determine the sampling error for the estimated number of marriages for the year. For example, in 1990 there were an estimated 651,984 remarriages of women, or 34.9 percent of all 1990 marriages. Because 34.9 is between 25 and 50 percent, the sampling error is between 2,219 and 2,563, or, by interpolation, 2,355 remarriages. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the actual number of 1990 remarriages is between 649,629 and 654,339 (651,984 + 2,355).

marriages and California nonlicensed marriages, counts were obtained from each county. Data on characteristics of bride and groom shown in tables 4–11 are available only from States in the MRA and exclude nonlicensed marriages in California.

The probability sample of marriages for 1989 and 1990 were selected by using five different sampling rates. For the District of Columbia and for each State in the MRA, either 5, 10, 20, 50, or 100 percent of the marriage records were included. Sampling rates were selected so that the expected sample would contain at least 2,500 records for each State. This criterion required 100-percent sampling for the District of Columbia and Delaware. All States in the MRA provided their marriage certificate data through either State-coded data tapes, microfilm, or photocopies.

In 1989 and 1990, marriages in the MRA sample are representative of 77 percent of the marriages registered in the United States in those years. Nonlicensed marriages registered in California are not available for inclusion in the MRA marriage sample. The 5-percent sample of California marriages for 1989 and 1990 was drawn only from licensed marriages. The corresponding weights for

sample records were based on these totals. Because no information is available on the characteristics of persons obtaining nonlicensed marriages, no accurate estimate is available of the bias introduced in sample estimates by the omission of these marriages.

Marriage rates were lower for the MRA than for the entire United States. The 1990 crude marriage rate for the MRA (8.7 per 1,000) was 11 percent below the U.S. rate (9.8) and the rate for unmarried women 15 years of age and over (47.8 per 1,000) was 12 percent below the U.S. rate (54.5). This is because residents of the MRA constituted 86 percent of the U.S. population, while the marriages in the MRA were representative of only 77 percent of U.S. marriages. At least two reasons for these differences can be identified.

First, many residents of States in the MRA married in States not in the MRA and were not counted in the MRA marriage total. However, because they lived within the MRA, they were counted in the population on which the rates were based. Nevada accounted for a large proportion of this net loss from the MRA total.

A second reason was that the nonlicensed California marriages were not in the MRA sample to count as marriages, but the entire population of California was in the population on which MRA rates were based. If these 103,206 marriages in 1990 had been included in the MRA sample, the rate would have been 50.4 rather than 47.8 per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over.

There may also be a difference in the rate at which residents of States in the MRA marry, divorce, and remarry compared with residents of States not in the MRA.

Sampling errors

All statistics for the MRA are estimates based on the systematic sample of marriages described earlier; therefore, these statistics are subject to sampling errors. The sampling error is a measure of variation that occurs by chance between sample estimates and the actual quantity being estimated. Chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate would differ from the true value by less than the

sampling error, and about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the sampling error.

Population denominators

Marriage rates for 1989 and 1990 for the MRA by age, sex, and previous marital status are based on unpublished population estimates as of July 1, prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (5), except for the rates by race shown in table 11 which are based on populations enumerated as of April 1, 1990 (6). National and State rates for 1989 and 1990 are based on population estimates as of July 1, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (7).

Computation of percent distributions, medians, and means

Figures for marriage order and previous marital status not stated were subtracted from figures for marriages used as denominators before medians were computed. Percent distributions were calculated excluding not-stated cases. Computations of median and mean age at marriage were based on tabulations of ungrouped data.

Nonreporting bias

Age was reported on more than 99 percent marriage records and the

missing data were imputed during processing of the file. For tables 5, 6, and 11, no allocation of missing data for previous marital status was done before rates were calculated.

In 1990 previous marital status was reported with about 99 percent completeness for tables 5, 6, (38 States and the District of Columbia) and 11 (34 States). Missing data for race in table 11 (about 1 percent of the records for brides and grooms) were allocated before the calculation of the rates.

This report represents summary tabulations from the final marriage statistics for 1989 and 1990. The National Center for Health Statistics will respond to requests for unpublished data whenever possible.

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